

# UVA Law 1L & LLM Social Guide

## *A Brief Guide to 1L and LLM Social Events*

Law school is hard, but it is also a lot of fun too. Here is a list of events you can expect to take part in throughout the year. These events are part of the reason why UVA Law consistently ranks as having the happiest law students!



**Brought to you by First Year Council, 2021-2022**

First Year Council (FYC) is a group of student representatives elected from each section (including LLMs) that plans events and coordinates activities among the 1L and LLM sections. Each section elects two representatives, with elections held early in the Fall semester.

**\*Disclaimer:** all events are entirely voluntary

# Softball & Softball Invitational

Batter up! If you haven't heard by now, softball is kind of a big deal at UVA Law. 1L & LLM students form teams with their Sections and compete against other Sections for bragging rights, while many student organizations also have their own teams, complete with team-specific jerseys. All skill levels are welcome to play (or watch), making softball a great way to get to know your classmates outside of the classroom. In mid-September, the North Grounds Softball League (NGSL) hosts a tournament exclusively for the 1L & LLM Sections to compete for a trophy, winners t-shirts, and eternal glory.

It's not just UVA law students who join in the fun! Each spring, the NGSL hosts a Softball Invitational, bringing dozens of softball teams from law schools around the country to Charlottesville in order to compete for the title of top law school (on the softball diamond). This is also one of the largest fundraisers of the year, as the tournament raises tens of thousands of dollars each year for a local nonprofit called Ready Kids, which provides early childhood educational programs for disadvantaged children.



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# Dandelion

Dandelion is a key early bonding moment for each section and the new 1L & LLM class as a whole. On one of the early weekends of the Fall semester, the 1L & LLM Sections will gather at The Park (the athletic field area down the hill from the law school) and perform choreographed dances or skits that relate to their Section's Letter.\* For example, in 2021 Section B danced to a Backstreet Boys song and Section F danced to a Fergie song. Sections typically meet after class the week prior to brainstorm and prepare their dances. There are drinks and food at the event, and many 2Ls and 3Ls come out to watch as well. The winning team immediately shows their softball prowess by playing their first game of softball against a team of upperclassmen!

\* Important to note: you do NOT need to be a good singer/dancer/actor!



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# Bar Review

Bar Review is a staple of law students' Friday nights, offering students a chance to socialize outside the classroom and visit classic Charlottesville establishments. Bar Review is hosted at local bars on The Corner and Downtown Mall every Friday night from the start of the semester through finals, with discounted drinks for law students typically offered from 10:00 pm to 12:00 am. Bar Review is a great way to meet students in other Sections and upperclassmen, all while spending some much needed time away from North Grounds!



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# Foxfield

Historically,\* Foxfield is a horse race that occurs each October and April, with the Law School attending the event in October. Everyone from the law school dresses to the nines in their best derby wear to watch horses race the tracks (think Kentucky Derby). The First Year Council sets up tents with food and drinks for even more fun! Last year's pictures are only a glimpse of the day-long fun and excitement that Foxfield entails.

\*Foxfield 2022 may be subject to changes due to circumstances outside FYC's control. Stay tuned for updates from FYC/the Student Bar Association (SBA).



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# Fauxfield

Fauxfield is widely regarded as one of the best law school events of the year, and for good reason. Fauxfield resulted from a scheduling snafu a few years ago, when the Fall Foxfield Races coincided with UVA Law's Fall Break. Rather than surrender, a group of students decided to use this opportunity to catalyze an enormous social endeavor: an all-day shindig for the entire Law School community to enjoy – Fauxfield. The party sold out, people had fun, and since then, it has become a favorite tradition. The event is typically hosted at a local bar, where there is phenomenal food, drinks, nonstop music, and an exclusive outdoor space to enjoy autumn weather with friends and fellow UVA Law students. Trust us: it's an amazing time.



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# Halloween Carnival

The Halloween Carnival is hosted on an evening during the last week of October outside in Spies Garden. The First Year Council Section & LLM representatives each host a themed table with candy and games for the students, faculty, staff, and their families to go trick-or-treating.

Representatives dress up in costumes, as do the families. There is apple cider, donuts, and a pumpkin carving competition amongst the students. It is a family friendly event that faculty and staff families look forward to each year!



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# PILA Ball

The PILA ball is a semi-formal dance that takes place around Thanksgiving to raise money for PILA, the Public Interest Law Association. The event is similar to high school Homecoming dances, minus the royalty, plus better food and drinks. It is one of the few dressier events that the Law School throws. Since it is so close to Final Exams, it is one of the “last hoorahs” before students retreat to their favorite library tables. The event is a blast, and it helps fund public interest grants for students, so everybody wins!



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# Barristers' Ball

Barristers' Ball is a formal, school-wide event hosted annually by the Student Bar Association (at many law schools too). Essentially, it is a law school prom and is arguably the most hyped event of the year. Historically held at Boar's Head Resort in Charlottesville, this is your chance to dress up, bring a date (but not required), and enjoy a night filled with friends and fun. Hors d'oeuvre and an open bar are provided to make the night particularly memorable!



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# 3@3

3@3 is an event for law students to celebrate their hard work and the end of the semester. During the Fall semester, 3@3 was held the afternoon after 1Ls finished their last exam at a bar on the Downtown Mall. During the Spring semester, 3@3 was held during the afternoon on the last day of the exam period at a bar on The Corner. The bars are reserved by the Law School for the events so only law students are able to attend, and there are drink deals available. 3@3 is a great time to celebrate all of the hard work completed during the semester with your Section and other law school friends!



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# Feb Club

Every night in February, individual students or a student organization hosts a themed party. There is a calendar created with all of the Feb Club parties, including their locations and themes. Some of last year's themes include Aspen in the 80s, Euphoria (the hit HBO show), and Space Cowgirls. Feb Club is a fun way to start the Spring semester, especially during the typically dreary month of February!



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# The Libel Show

The Libel Show is UVA Law's oldest tradition and student organization having just wrapped up its 114th year. It is a multi-night show in March filled with comedic sketches, songs, and parodies, and it is all written and performed by UVA Law students for UVA Law students. The professors also get involved by performing their own rebuttal on the first night of the show. The Libel Show is the home to all the hidden talent of UVA, and there are opportunities for 1Ls to get involved as actors, singers, dancers, writers, bandmates, producers, etc. Information for the writer's room will come out in the Fall, and auditions will occur in January/February.



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# 1L Journal Tryouts

While not a fun social event, we mention journal tryouts now so that the weekend is vaguely on your radar.

In order to join a UVA Law journal ([Virginia Law Review](#) or any of the nine [specialty journals](#)), 1Ls must participate in a weekend-long Unified Journal Tryout during the Spring semester. Two weekends are offered (typically in late February and early March, around Spring Break) to provide you with more flexibility. The Unified Journal Tryout takes place over the weekend of your choosing and does not require any additional preparation.

The journal tryout consists of an editing component, a writing component, and any personal statements you choose to write for specific journals.

The editing component is a cite-check, similar to the work you would likely do while on any journal, involving spelling and grammar checks, citation checks, and verification of quotes. The writing component requires a persuasive essay, in which you are given a packet of cases and secondary sources to use in your response to the prompt. Personal statements are often recommended by specialty journals (and required by Virginia Law Review) in order to demonstrate your interest in that particular journal.

Following the Unified Journal Tryout, you will rank your top three specialty journal choices, who will reach out with decisions in late March. Virginia Law Review decisions take longer, with decisions sent out during the summer.

If you receive an invitation to join a journal, you'll have the opportunity to attend a meet-and-greet event hosted by that journal where you can speak to current members. In addition to providing free food and drinks, this helps aid the decision-making process!

The Virginia Law Review administers the Unified Journal Tryout and will provide more information, including "bluebooking" sessions, writing component sessions, and general information sessions at the start of the Spring semester. There is no need to think ahead to the Unified Journal Tryout now, but we hope providing this small background into the process allows you to plan your calendars.

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# LLM Journal Tryouts

## What is it and when is it?

The Unified Journal Tryout is a quintessential part of the UVA Law experience. Tryout takes place over one weekend (Friday to Monday) and will ultimately determine your membership to one or more journals. The LLM journal tryout occurs in the Fall semester shortly after orientation.

## Why should you do it?

If you are seeking employment in the United States, many employers look for journal membership as part of the application process. It is also a great way to connect with your JD peers and gain a better understanding of American legal education.

## The Importance of the Bluebook

The Bluebook is used by legal practitioners (the “blue pages”) and in academia (the “white pages”). For Tryout you are only allowed to use the white pages. The Bluebook is important for both the editing and writing components of the Tryout. Either buy the physical Bluebook or access the online version through the Virginia Law library resources no later than the first day of school. Westlaw and LexisNexis offer Bluebook practice programs to learn what the rules are and where they are in the Bluebook. While you complete these exercises be sure to tab the physical version or pin pages in the online version.

## Different Journals (with links)

The tryout is for both [Virginia Law Review](#) (VLR) and the [specialty journals](#). As an LLM, you will not benefit from VLR as much as JDs unless you are pursuing an academic career. VLR is a huge time commitment and will not be dispositive of your success in securing employment.

Instead, we recommend that you apply for one of the specialty journals. After you finish the Tryout, you can apply for three specialty journals listed in order of preference. You are not required to prepare a personal statement, but you should write one for a journal that you are particularly passionate about joining.

## Tips and Insights

**General** → Carefully read through the instructions for both the editing and writing components in their entirety.

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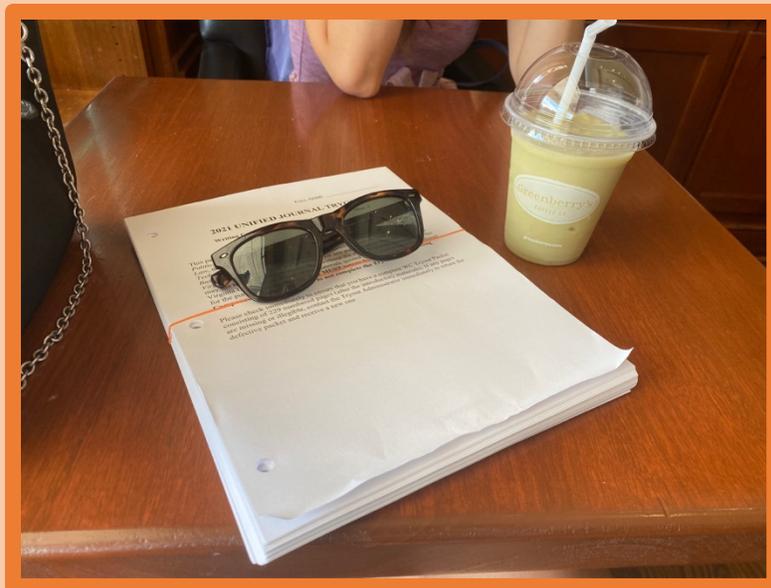
- Tryout is a closed universe, and therefore you cannot use any sources outside those provided (e.g., Google, Westlaw, or other materials).
- Tabbing your Bluebook will help you to better understand the process. Important Bluebook tables include: T1.3, T6, T10.

**Editing Component** → If you are in a rush, look at the index at the back of your bluebook.

- Pay close attention to the formatting of the footnotes. Sometimes they will try to trick you with little things (e.g. italicized punctuation / words where they are not supposed to be).
- Try to correct as many mistakes as you can find before submitting.

**Writing Component** → Some students found it helpful to read and synthesize all of the materials before writing.

- Outline your thesis and supporting arguments before writing.
- Time management is very important. While two days may seem like a lot, most of the students who successfully completed their tryout used all of the allocated time.
- The writing component is more important for VLR than it is for most specialty journals.



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As you can see, it is not all library, all the time at UVA Law. We have a lot of fun outside the classroom as well. And these are just law school events! There are countless other things to do in Charlottesville outside of school too.

Charlottesville has wineries, breweries, hiking trails, restaurants, bowling alleys, skateparks, trampoline parks, art classes, escape rooms, etc. It's a great place to spend the next three years! We look forward to seeing you on Grounds this August!

